

January 14, 1988
FILE NUMBER: 3-338-84-003-B
Michael T. Meier, NNSR

ABSTRACT

UNITED STATES ARMY COMBAT DEVELOPMENT COMMAND (CDC)
COMBAT OPERATIONS LOSS AND EXPENDITURE DATA-VIETNAM
(COLED-V), (Items Lost), 1968-1970, (machine-readable data
file) Created by CDC, Produced by CDC,
National Archives and Records Administration (distributor)

TYPE OF FILE: Microdata. End Items. The units of observation are items or materiel lost as a result of combat or non-combat circumstances.

UNIVERSE DESCRIPTION: The universe consists of items lost. The conditions under which the loss took place, intensity of engagement, terrain, visibility, and item age are data elements in this data set. The line item number and Federal Stock number are included for tracking purposes.

SUBJECT MATTER DESCRIPTION: Beginning in 1966, the U.S. Army, responding to the United States military build-up in South Vietnam, ordered the Combat Development Command (CDC) to start organizing a data base to measure the ammunition expenditure and item loss in South Vietnam by Army units. The result was the Combat Operations Loss and Expenditure Data-Vietnam. The data base, consisting of six data sets, was designed to assist the Army in planning for the appropriate allocation of ammunition and materiel. To this end, it was important to logistical personnel to determine items lost as a result of combat or non-combat reasons. To insure proper tracking of the item the line item number and Federal Stock Number of are given and to help avoid confusion the item name is spelled out in each record. In addition, weather conditions, terrain, time of day, type of mission, and intensity of combat were elements in the equation. As the American presence began to diminish in South Vietnam, the project was transferred to the U.S. Army Depot Systems Command (HQDESCOM) in 1970.

GEOGRAPHIC IDENTIFIERS: End Item Losses in South Vietnam by U.S. Army forces.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION:

FILE STRUCTURE: Fixed length, non-hierarchical.

FILE SIZE: There are 179,313 records in this data set.

FILE SORT SEQUENCE: Arranged by item type and thereunder by date

of loss, conditions resulting in loss, line item number, Federal Stock number, item age, whether the result of combat or non-combat circumstances, and major unit name.

REFERENCE MATERIAL: Background and technical information consisting of a briefing paper presented at the Project Advisory Group Meeting, August 8, 1969, record layouts, and codes are included as documentation. Agency documentation is supplemented by the Machine-Readable Branch of the National Archives consisting of an introduction and portions of computer printouts. The last three data sets have computer dumps in a print format because they contain text material and they are included with the documentation.

FILE AVAILABILITY: The file is currently available from:
Machine-Readable Branch (NNSR)
Special Archives Division
National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, D.C. 20408

QUOTATION: Includes codes, record layouts, Research Analysis Corporation Briefing (62pp.), punch card format, file description.

DATA SETS:

Ammunition Expenditure 1968. Data set name RG338.COLEDV.AE68.
Ammunition Expenditure 1969. Data set name RG338.COLEDV.AE69.
Ammunition Expenditure 1970. Data set name RG338.COLEDV.AE70.
End Item Loss. Data set name RG338.COLEDV.EDNI.
Item Name File. Data set name RG338.COLEDV.ITEM.
Organization Name File. Data set name RG338.COLEDV.ORGN.